



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WARRENSBURG WOMAN, BOYFRIEND SENTENCED FOR PROSTITUTION-RELATED CHARGES

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Warrensburg, Mo., woman who had hoped to earn \$1 million from a man she met on the Internet was sentenced in federal court today after being convicted of charges related to prostitution. In a separate but related case, her boyfriend was also sentenced for his role in transporting her and a teenage girl to New York.

Cherri Turnbow, 31, of Warrensburg, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to three years and 10 months in federal prison without parole. **William R. Birchfield**, 40, of Atlanta, Ga., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to three years of probation, including four months of home detention. The court also ordered **Birchfield** to pay a fine of \$4,000.

On April 27, 2004, **Turnbow** was found guilty of enticement for prostitution and transportation of a minor for prostitution. **Turnbow** enticed a 16-year-old female to travel with her from Missouri to New York City between April 1 and April 5, 2002, Graves said, because a man she communicated with over the Internet had offered \$1 million for a sexual encounter. **Birchfield**, **Turnbow's** boyfriend, bought plane tickets for the three of them to travel to New York, where he also paid for a rental car and two rooms at Hollywood Motel in Long Island.

Turnbow and the minor met the unnamed john in one of the rooms at the Hollywood Motel while **Birchfield** waited in the other room. The encounter ended when the john touched the minor, who had disrobed and was only supposed to watch. **Turnbow** and the john agreed to meet again and resume the encounter the following day, Graves said, but the john never returned. **Turnbow** and **Birchfield** tried to locate him after he failed to appear the next day as promised, but were unable to find him.

“This was not only an indecent proposal, but an illegal one,” Graves said. “In the end,

Turnbow got just what she deserved – not the million dollars, but a federal prison sentence.”

On April 21, 2004, **Birchfield** pleaded guilty to transporting **Turnbow** across state lines with the intent that she engage in prostitution. **Birchfield**, who testified during **Turnbow’s** trial, admitted that the offense also involved a minor.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Katharine Fincham. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Warrensburg, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow